Publications of Department of Biotechnology

6544. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many research publications, research papers, and monographs have been brought out by the Department of Biotechnology during the last year;

(b) what are the magazines which are brought out by the Department;

(c) whether the magazines will be supplied to the Members of Parliament interested therein; and

(d) in what manner the programmes of the Department will be made use of in the MPs Local Area Development Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The Department of Biotechnology has been supporting more than 1000 research projects. As per the available information during the last 5 years about 3000 publications have come out in national and international journals and 9 monographs have been published. The popular magazines namely 'Vigyan Pragati' and 'Science Reporter' published by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research are also supported.

(c) Yes Sir;

(d) Biotechnology based programmes for specific regions could be developed to meet the requirements of any special local area development scheme. This will be based on the technology packages generated through research & development efforts. Local research institutions can be involved in their implementation as biotechnology is a knowledge-intensive and skill-based effort

Research efforts to convert genetic wealth into economic wealth

6545. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what research efforts are being made to convert genetic wealth into economic wealth and conservation of biodiversity;

(b) what steps are being taken to strengthen these efforts; and

(c) what are the details of the linkages which have been developed with other Departments and Ministries for the programmes of their interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) A number of programmes for pollution control, biodiveresity convervaiton and utilisation, and generation of environmentally sustainable technologies such as development of biofertilizers, biocontrol agents, bioleaching processes etc. have been started. Special research projects for conservation of himalayan, desert, coastal regions and mangroves using biotechnological tools are under implementation.

Three gene banks have been established for conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants in Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Trivandrum; Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow; and National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi. For producing high quality planting material for forest trees two Tissue Culture Pilot Plant facilities have been set up. Oilpalm and Cardamom projects have demonstrated high productiviety.

(c) The Department of Biotechnology is working closely with the Ministries of Environment and Forsts, Agriculture, Industries, Commerce, Human Resource Development and many others. Representatives of these Ministries act as memebrs on the Expert Task Forces, and as peers for evaluation and monitoring. A number of coordinated, joint projects have also been taken up.

Monitoring procedures evolved by Department of Biotechnology

6546. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an objective peer review system and monitoring procedures have been evolved with the help of task forces by the Department of Biotechnology;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to encourage the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINSITER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVDI): (a) to (c) An objective peer review and monitoring system has been evolved with the help of a number of experts from various research institutions and scientific Agencies. The expert Task Fores of the Department continuously review the progress of the ongoing and completed projects through detailed scienctific progress reports, presentations by the Principal Investigators and site visits by experts. Practically every ongoing project is monitored at least once a year.

ISRO Espionage Investigations

6547. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1659 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the CBI has completed its probe in the Indian Space Research organisaiton (ISRO) spy scandal;

(b) if so, whether it has since submitted its report to the Government in the matter; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The CBI has not yet completed its probe in the case of alleged espionage in ISRO.

(c) Does not arise.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (1993-94) of the Central Pulp and Papers Research Institute, Saharanpur (U.P.) and related papers

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry (in the Deptt. of Industrial Development and in the Deptt. of Heavy Industry) (Shrimati Krishna Sahi): Madam, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur, (U.P.) for the year 1993-94, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

(iii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers